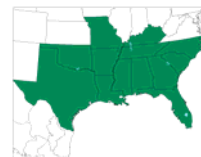


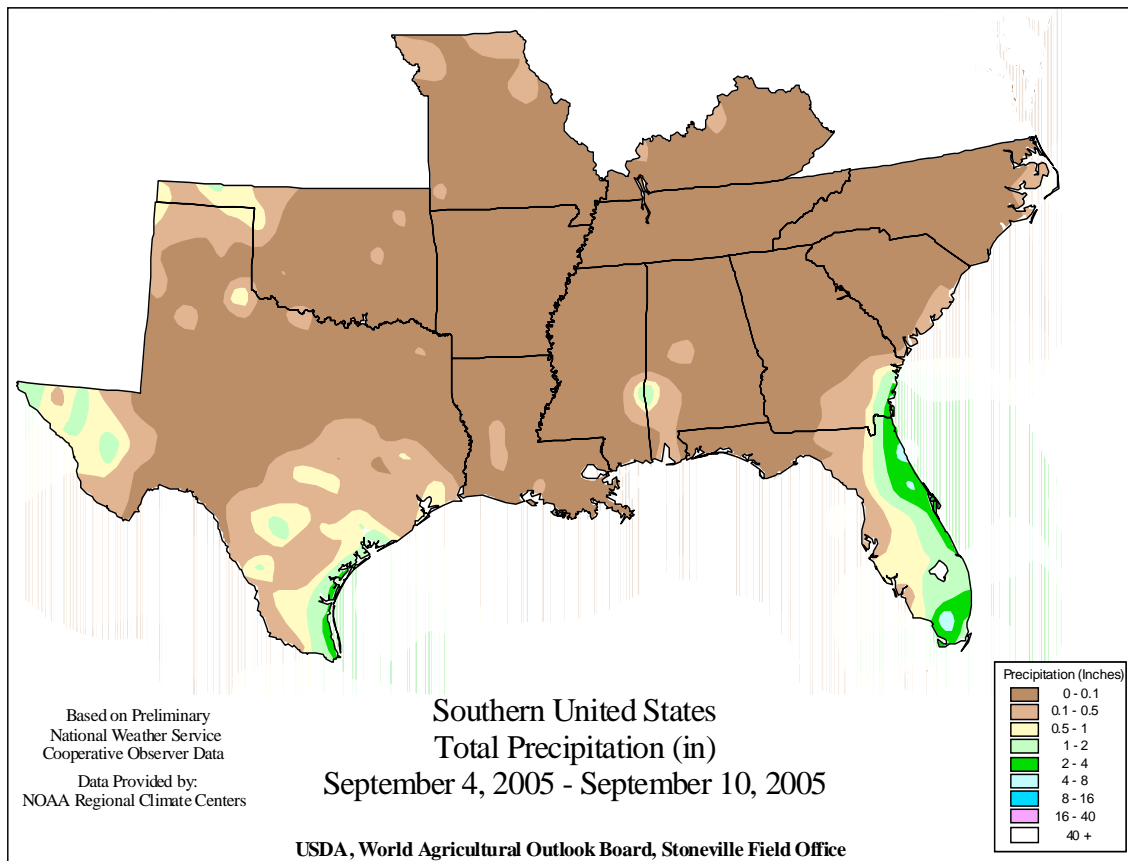


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

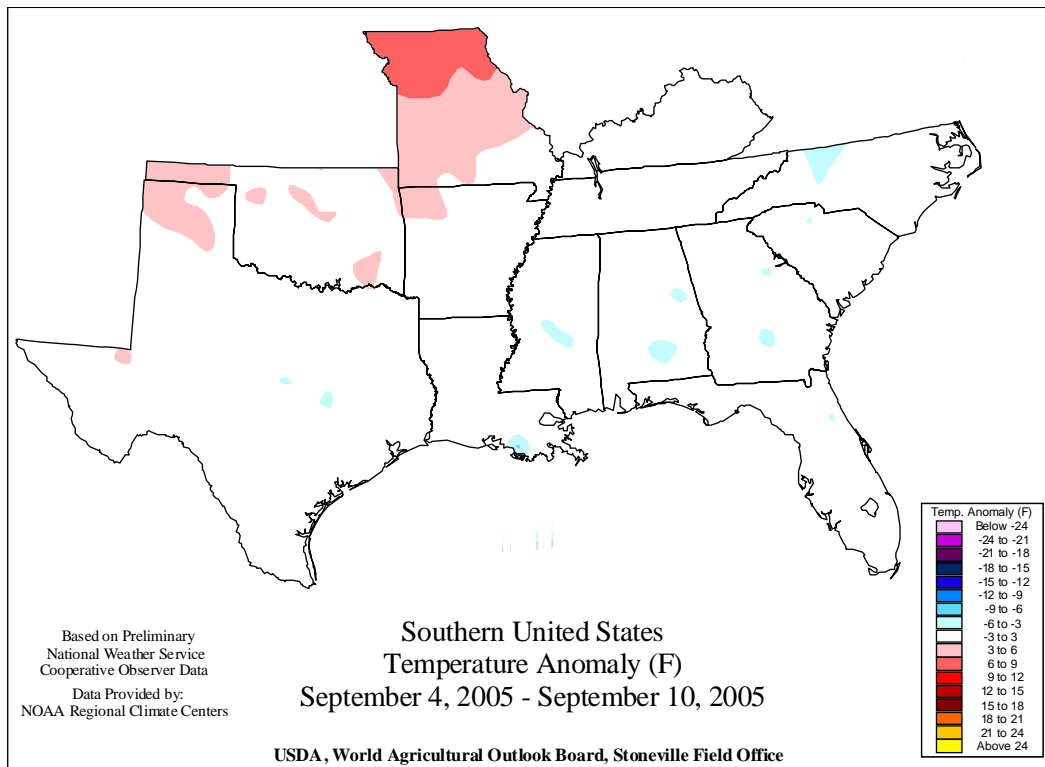
September 4 to September 10, 2005



Weather Highlights

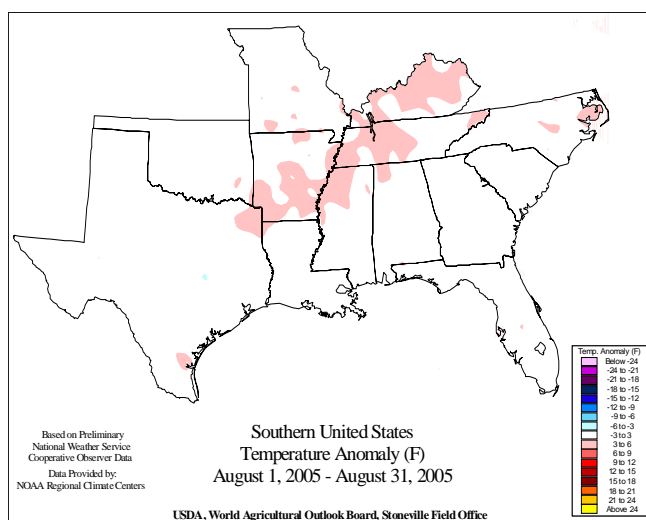
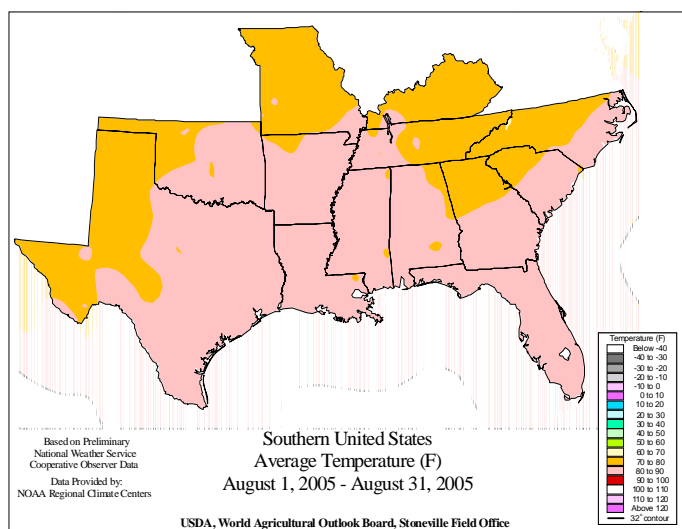
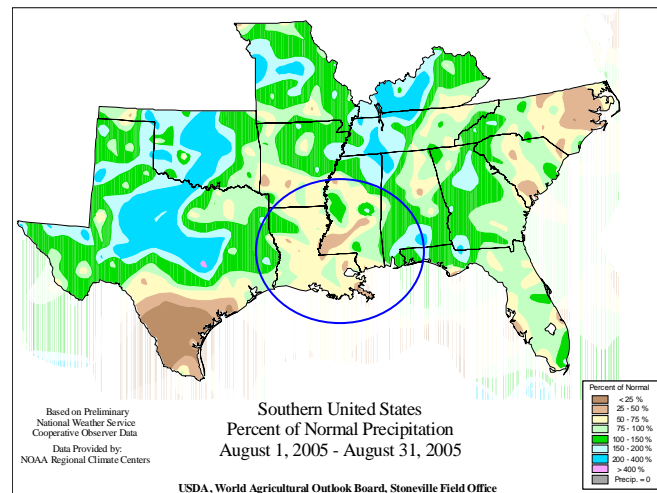
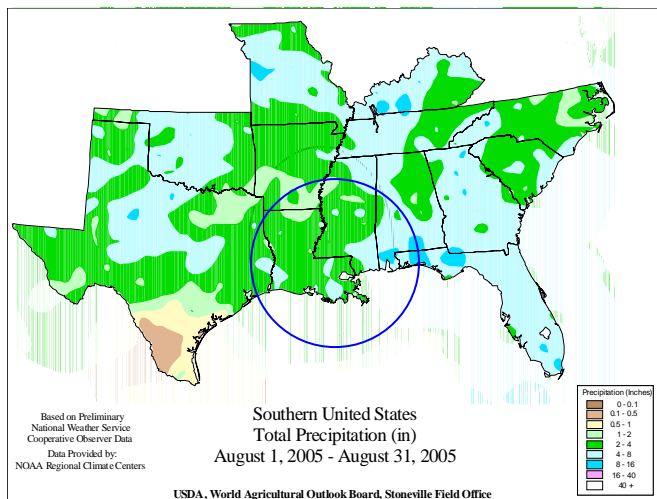
Dry weather prevailed over an expansive area of the southern United States last week. The exceptions occurred mostly in Florida, West Texas, and the Texas Gulf coast. Florida's Atlantic coast received several days of heavy rainfall from the persistent Tropical Storm Ophelia. Ophelia was centered near Florida's central coast most of the week, producing as much as 4 to 8 inches of rain in scattered areas. Late in the week, Ophelia moved slowly northward to Georgia and South Carolina, producing .50 to 2 inches of rain. Other areas which received scattered showers were West Texas (.50 to 2 inches), and the Texas Gulf coast (up to 4 inches). Otherwise, the majority of the southern region was hot and dry.

Scattered areas in several states experienced weekly temperatures that averaged 3 to 6 degrees F below normal, but most areas averaged near normal. Well above-average temperatures were seen in Missouri, up to 9 degrees F above normal. The Oklahoma and Texas panhandles reported weekly temperatures that averaged 3 to 6 degrees F above normal over the week.



The Mississippi Delta, recovering from the remnants of Katrina, experienced quieter weather over the week. There was no rainfall to report, but plenty of sunshine and dry conditions to aid harvesting efforts. Some scattered locations, mostly confined to the northern Delta, reported minimums in the upper 50's and maximums in the upper 80's. Therefore, some of the region reported below-average temperatures of 3 to 6 degrees F below normal.

○ = possible missing or incomplete precip data sets in MS and LA due to Katrina



August Weather Summary:

The month of August in the southern U.S. featured a very active weather pattern, from very wet or extremely dry, to very hot, and ending with a historic hurricane. Twice during the month, heavy rains affected the Gulf coastal regions from New Orleans east. Rains totaled anywhere from 4 to 16 inches, up to 400 percent of normal in some locations, especially in south Alabama and the Florida panhandle. While areas east of the Mississippi River had greater coverage for monthly rain totals in inches, areas west in Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, had greater coverage for rainfall from normal, up to 400 percent for the month. Only areas in extreme south Texas stayed completely dry, keeping their rainfall less than 25 percent of normal. Hurricane Katrina was the biggest weather maker for the month as it made landfall on the Louisiana Gulf coast. As Katrina's remnants moved north over Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky, it produced several inches of rain, and high winds. The month of August could be described as "record-breaking", since numerous records were broken across the region for length of dryness, daily precipitation and temperatures, and the hurricane.

The weather was very hot during the month, but the pattern was similar to July in that temperatures averaged 70 to 80 degrees F in the farthest northern states, while the majority of the southern region averaged 80 to 90 degrees F. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees F above normal in scattered areas, most of which occurred along the River Valleys of Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio. Temperatures across the remainder of the southern U.S. averaged near normal.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*

Week Ending

		September 11, 2005	September 4, 2005	September 11, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Bolls Opening	43	30	44	52
	Harvested	9	NA	7	9
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	65	64	68	---
Corn	Dented	89	79	73	82
	Mature	36	20	26	36
	Harvested	6	NA	5	7
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	51	51	69	---
Rice	Harvested	33	24	41	38
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	61	57	73	---
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	37	15	28	31
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	54	54	63	---

*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

"---" = Not Reported

Cotton:

Bolls were open on 43 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 44 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-year average. Of the southern states, only Arkansas, Louisiana, and North Carolina were ahead of their 5-year average boll opening pace. Harvest began in Arkansas and Mississippi, behind their 5-year average pace by 1 and 4 percentage points, respectively. Nationally, crop conditions improved 1 percentage point from the previous week to 65 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. Crop conditions improved in Mississippi 7 points to 58 percent of the crop being in good to excellent condition.

Corn:

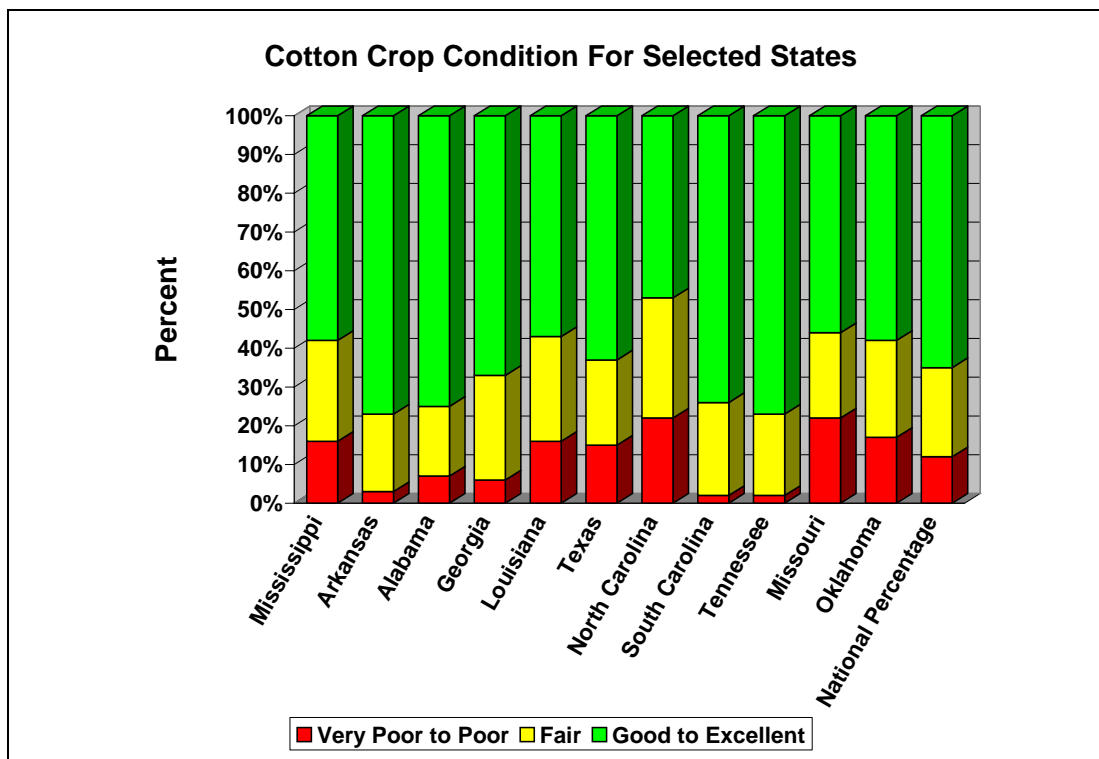
Only 6 percent of the nation's crop had been harvested, 1 point ahead of last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Harvest continued in the majority of the southern states, led by Louisiana with 98 percent harvested, 6 points ahead of their 5-year average. Kentucky trailed all southern states with 15 percent of their crop harvested, 11 points behind their 5-year average. Crop acreage in the good to excellent category remained the same from the previous week at 51 percent.

Rice:

Nationally, 33 percent of the acreage had been harvested, 8 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average pace. Sixty-one percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, a 4 point improvement from the previous week. Harvest continued in all of the southern states and neared completion in Texas with 95 percent of their crop harvested, slightly ahead of both last year and the 5-year average.

Soybeans:

Nationally, 37 percent of the soybean acres were dropping leaves, 9 point ahead of last year's and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average progress. Progress was most advanced in Mississippi, where 79 percent of the crop was dropping leaves. The U.S. soybean crop, with 54 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, remained the same as the previous week. Condition of the Mississippi crop improved 9 points from last week to 64 percent rated good to excellent.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 65 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, a 1 point improvement from the previous week. Mississippi, at 58 percent good to excellent, increased their good to excellent crop rating by 7 percentage points from the previous week. Louisiana's cotton acres, at 57 percent good to excellent, declined 7 points from the previous week. Tennessee and Arkansas, both with 77 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, had the best crop conditions of all the southern states. North Carolina's crop improved 1 point to 47 percent of their acres rated good to excellent, the lowest of any southern state.

August Summary: Soil moisture improved in Texas, Missouri, and parts of Louisiana, Oklahoma, and the Mississippi Delta. The drought expanded and worsened in Arkansas and was introduced in North Carolina. Harvest of corn, rice, sorghum, and soybeans began in Mississippi, and Arkansas. Cotton harvest began in Texas and Louisiana. Crop condition ratings generally declined in the southern states. Crop conditions in Mississippi declined significantly after Hurricane Katrina.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freland at 662-686-3280)